

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 600 without my signature.

I care deeply about the health and welfare of all Californians. Science based research is essential to better understand how the three main factors: behavior, environment, and genetics, interact to influence our health.

While the intent of this measure is worthy, this bill does nothing more than require a study, and a flawed one at that. The bill will only provide a partial snapshot of chemicals present in tested participants without proper context of what the presence of specific chemical means or how it interacts with other health factors. In response, Californians may take an action that is adverse to their health and the health of their family based on incomplete information. For example, despite the facts that health experts extol the virtue and benefits of breast feeding, a new mom may choose not to breastfeed her infant for fear that a small amount of chemicals in her body may transfer to the child, depriving the infant of nutrients, disease preventing antibodies, and a reduced risk of obesity.

Any biomonitoring program must be built on a sound scientific foundation in order to provide information that can be further evaluated to direct additional research. If the program is flawed in any manner, the resources we direct towards it would essentially be wasted.

Because a properly constructed biomonitoring program could yield useful data for researchers, I am directing my Secretaries of Health and Human Services and California Environmental Protection Agencies, working with our University and academic institutions, to develop a comprehensive approach to the laudable goals of this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger